

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Tetsujiro KONDO et al.  
Continuation of  
Serial No. : 08/959,051  
Filed : Filed Concurrently Herewith  
For : PICTURE ENCODING APPARATUS AND METHOD


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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action, please amend the above-identified

Application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, before line 4, add the following new paragraph:

--This is a Continuation of Application Serial No. 08/959,051 filed October 28, 1997 which is a Continuation of application serial No. 08/411,600, filed October 20, 1995.--

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 2-51 without prejudice.

**REMARKS**

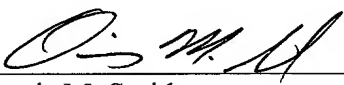
Claims 2-51 have been canceled herein. Claim 1 is in this application.

The present application is a continuation application of parent application serial No. 08/959,051.

Entry of the above amendatory matter and an examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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